

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Gregory C. Ranieri on 2-6-07.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

-Claim 1, line 9, "and" had been deleted.

-Claim 1, line ¹⁵~~14~~, after the word "mediums", inserting --- ; and egress

packet write drop logic, which, in response to an overflow condition of said first FIFO storage structure, while operating under first protocol, writes an EOP at an offset from a SOP location of an egress packet to be dropped, to effectuate a tail flush of said first FIFO storage structure---

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-Claim 25, line ¹⁵~~14~~, after the word "mediums", inserting --- ; and ingress packet write drop logic, which, in response to an overflow condition of said third FIFO storage structure, while operating under a first protocol, writes an EOP at an offset from a SOP location of an ingress packet to be dropped, to effectuate a tail flush of said first FIFO storage structure---

-Claim 37, line ¹²~~9~~, after the word "mediums", inserting --- ; and egress packet write drop logic, which, in response to an overflow condition of said first FIFO storage structure, while operating under a first protocol, write an EOP at an offset from a SOP location of an egress packet to be dropped, to effectuate a tail flush of said first FIFO storage structure---

-Claims 2, 26, 60-89 had been canceled.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1, 3-9, the prior art fails to teach a networking apparatus comprising "egress packet write drop logic, which, in response to an overflow condition of said first FIFO storage structure, while operating under first protocol, writes an EOP at an offset from a SOP location of an egress